

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Replace the Abstract with the following rewritten version:

A foil-type switching element ~~includes~~comprises a first carrier foil and a second carrier foil arranged at a certain distance from each other by means of a spacer, ~~said~~the spacer ~~including~~comprising at least one recess defining an active area of the switching element. At least two electrodes are arranged in the active area of the switching element between ~~said~~the first and second carrier foils in such a way that, in response to a pressure acting on the active area of the switching element, the first and second carrier foils are pressed together against the reaction force of the elastic carrier foils and an electrical contact is established between the at least two electrodes. In order to avoid inhomogeneous deformation of the carrier foil due to the application of the electrodes, the switching element further comprises a layer of dielectric material, ~~said~~the dielectric material being applied onto ~~said~~the first carrier foil between the carrier foil and an electrode arranged on ~~said~~the first carrier foil, ~~said~~the layer of dielectric material covering at least an electrode region of the first carrier foil which is delimited by a generally outer periphery of the electrode arranged on ~~said~~the first carrier foil.